

PENDING CLAIMS

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-48 (Canceled).

49. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management for a computing device having an authentication status, the method comprising:

receiving a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

determining the authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

changing the computing device's authentication status to authenticated and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated.

50. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated to not authenticated.

51. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein:

the computing device's authentication status is represented by a hardware fuse; and

the computing device's authentication status is changed to authenticated by blowing the hardware fuse using an electrical current, whereby the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated before the hardware fuse is blown, and the computing device's authentication status is authenticated after the hardware fuse is blown.

52. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

53. (Previously Presented) A method for configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

54. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

55. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, further comprising:

loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated; and

rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated.

56. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

57. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

58. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

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59. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management, comprising:

a processor configured to:

receive a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

determine an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determine an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

change the computing device's authentication status to authenticated and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated; and

a memory coupled to the processor for storing data.

60. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated to not authenticated.

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61. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein:

the computing device's authentication status is represented by a hardware fuse; and

the computing device's authentication status is changed to authenticated by blowing the hardware fuse using an electrical current, whereby the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated before the hardware fuse is blown, and the computing device's authentication status is authenticated after the hardware fuse is blown.

62. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

63. (Previously Presented) A computing device having configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

64. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

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65. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the processor is further configured to:

load the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated; and

reject the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated.

66. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

67. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

68. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

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69. (Previously Presented) A storage device embodying instructions which, when executed by a processor, implement a method for configuration management for a computing device, the method comprising:

receiving a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

determining an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

changing the computing device's authentication status to authenticated and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated.

70. (Previously Presented) A storage device as defined in claim 69, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated to not authenticated.

71. (Previously Presented) A storage device as defined in claim 69, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

72. (Previously Presented) A storage device as defined in claim 69, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

73. (Previously Presented) A storage device as defined in claim 69, the method further comprising:

loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated; and

rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated.

74. (Previously Presented) A storage device as defined in claim 69, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

75. (Previously Presented) A storage device as defined in claim 69, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

76. (Previously Presented) A storage device as defined in claim 69, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

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77. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management, comprising:

means for receiving a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

means for determining an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

means for determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

means for changing the computing device's authentication status to authenticated and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated.

78. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated to not authenticated.

79. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

80. (Previously Presented) A computing device having configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

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81. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

82. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, further comprising:

means for loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated; and

means for rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated and the available software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated.

83. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

84. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

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85. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.